

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00043 141257Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07
FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06
NEAE-00 L-03 AID-05 SP-02 /049 W
-----141310Z 041834 /65
P R 140925Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0558
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0043

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BDIS, EG, US
SUBJECT: FIRST APPALACHIAN CORPORATION (FAC)

REF: STATE 006106, ALEXANDRIA 0031

1. WE HAVE RESEARCHED WITHIN CONGEN ARRIVALS OF "OVERSIZE" VESSELS WHICH BLACK OF FAC ALLEGES BROUGHT COAL TO ALEXANDRIA DURING PERIOD AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1976 (STATE REFTEL). ACCORDING TO PERTINENT ISSUES OF LLOYD'S WEEKLY SHIPPING INDEX:

A. SPRING ODESSA (LENGTH 741 FEET, BEAM 108 FEET, DRAFT 62 FEET)
ARRIVED NOVEMBER 23.

B. LORENZO HALCOUSSI (LENGTH 846 FEET, BEAM 106 FEET, DRAFT 60 FEET)
ARRIVED AUGUST 31 AND SAILED SEPTEMBER 4.

C. LAIDAURE (LENGTH 656 FEET, BEAM 89 FEET, DRAFT 52 FEET)
ARRIVED OCTOBER 10.

D. DANITA - NO RECORD OF CALL AT ALEXANDRIA

E. VEEDOL (LENGTH 799 FEET, BEAM 106 FEET, DRAFT 58 FEET)
ARRIVED OCTOBER 27.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00043 141257Z

2. CHARTED DEPTHS OF HARBOR (US DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY HYDROGRAPHIC CENTER CHART 56102, CORRECTED TO 1975) WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY OF THESE VESSELS FULLY-LADEN (MAXIMUM DRAFT) TO REACH COAL BASIN WHERE DEPTHS OF 42 AND 43 FEET BLOCK ALL ACCESS.

3. ON EVIDENCE OF LLOYD'S INDEX, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT RESPONSIBLE

GOE OFFICIALS DELIBERATELY LIED TO CONSUL GENERAL (ALEX REFTEL). SINCE GOE OFFICES ARE CLOSED THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND FRIDAY, WE CANNOT PURSUE FURTHER WITH PORT AUTHORITY UNTIL SATURDAY AT EARLIEST.

4. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PRESENT AUTHORITY WITH INFORMATION IN ITEMS A, B AND E UNDER PARA ONE ABOVE, TELLING THEM WE UNDERSTAND THESE VESSELS BROUGHT COAL ON ARRIVAL DATES SHOWN BY LLOYD'S AND ASK FOR EXPLANATION.

5. RE QUERY IN STATE REFTEL ON "CURRENT RESTRICTIONS", ALEX REFTEL DID NOT RPT NOT MEAN IMPLY WRITTEN REGULATION WITH SPECIFIC LENGTH RESTRICTION. IT APPEARS TO BE UNWRITTEN LIMITATION SUBJECT TO PORT DIRECTOR'S JUDGMENT GIVEN PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS OF HARBOR DEPTHS, EXISTING MOORING AREAS, ALIGNMENT OF UNLOADING QUAI'S ETC. AS REFTEL STATED IN PARA 2 "LENGTH LIMITATION... IS BASED ON VESSEL SAFETY AMONG SERIOUS NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS."

6. COMMENT: WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE PORT AUTHORITY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL BENEFIT OF ANY POSSIBLE DOUBT, HIS FLAT STATEMENT TO CONGEN AND USAID OFFICER, CHEMICOKE DIRECTOR'S ATTITUDE AND PERHAPS UNINTENTIONAL ADMISSION OF LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO (ALEX REFTEL), CERTAINLY BEGINS TO MAKE US WONDER WHAT IS BEHIND ALL THIS.
CHASE

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